

Contact:  
Sharon Gavin  
Metrolink Media Relations  
Phone (213) 452-0233  
gavins@scrra.net

700 S. Flower Street,  
26<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90017



# News Release

## METROLINK WILL BEGIN RAIL GRINDING PROCESS JUNE 29

Maintenance procedure helps rails maintain strength, reduces wear and tear on train wheels; grinding scheduled to take place through Aug. 3, 2004.

LOS ANGELES, CA, **Friday, June 25, 2004:** Beginning Tuesday, June 29, Metrolink maintenance crews will be passing through many Southland communities with machinery that grinds and refinishes the metal rails along Metrolink's 512 miles of track.

The rail grinding process is an important part of track maintenance that improves the running characteristics of the trains and helps to reduce noise.

Rail grinding machinery consists of a small truck-hauled machine that contains a machine that has spinning grinding stones. These grinding stones can produce showers of sparks and significant noise. The grinding machinery travels with an 800-gallon water truck and a fire suppression crew to prevent the sparks from starting any fires, and travels at approximately 2.5 miles per hour when working.

Metrolink last performed the rail grinding maintenance in December 2002. Without the maintenance work, the rail would lose its proper shape and weaken, causing more rapid wear and tear on train wheels.

The rail grinding work will take place between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m. each night beginning Tuesday, June 29 and ending Tuesday, August 3, 2004.

**There will be no rail grinding on July 4, 5, 12, 19, 26, 29, and Aug. 2.**

The grinding machinery may need to make 3 – 5 passes in some areas, but once it moves through an area it will not return to that area until the next grinding project.

**The proposed rail-grinding schedule is as follows:**

**Jun. 29 - Jul. 7: Antelope Valley Line, from Lancaster to Burbank**

**Jul. 8 - 12: Ventura County Line, from Burbank to Moorpark**

**Jul. 13 - 18: Metrolink tracks along Los Angeles River**

**Jul. 19 - 25: San Bernardino Line, from Los Angeles to San Bernardino**

**Jul. 26 - 28: Pasadena and/or Olive**

**Jul. 29 - Aug. 3: Orange County Line, from Fullerton to San Diego County**

**Media please note:** The rail-grinding schedule is subject to change. If you would like to photograph the rail grinding process, please call the Metrolink Media Relations Office at (213) 452-0244 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekdays for updated times and locations.

Metrolink is Southern California's regional commuter rail service and is in its 12th year of operations. The Southern California Regional Rail Authority, a joint powers authority made up of an 11-member board representing the transportation commissions of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura counties, governs the service. Metrolink continues to be one of the nation's fastest growing commuter rail services, operating over seven routes through a six-county network with 512 total route miles.

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